



Vehicle Safety

Many OHSU employees have reason to drive OHSU - or State-owned vehicles in the course of their work. Although accidents involving these vehicles are infrequent, safe driving tips are worthy of review. The difference between good and bad drivers is that a good driver always expects the unexpected:

See and Be Seen... In Control - Visibility is key in preventing accidents. First the unobstructed visibility of the driver is critical. Never carry loads in a way that you limit your ability to see in all directions. Second, increase your visibility to other drivers by turning your lights on for safety. Also, do not drive in another vehicle's blind spot. When passing, avoid long periods where another driver's awareness of you is reduced. Always drive within posted speed limits, as appropriate for the vehicle and the load.

Maintain the Vehicle - It is NOT someone else's job! Every time you get into a vehicle, it is your responsibility to check the safety of all major systems... every time! Make sure that lights, turn signals, tires, brakes, and seatbelts are functional. Report any problems.

Buckle Up - Seat belts are provided for your protection, and wearing them is the law! You, as an individual, not OHSU, are responsible for paying fines if you are cited for not wearing your seat belt.

Check before backing - Check for other people, animals, and objects to ensure a clear path. Accidents while backing a vehicle account for a significant number of injuries and accidents among employers. Minimize occasions where you must back up by picking parking places and loading areas carefully.

Go prepared - Work vehicles should be equipped with first aid kits and fire extinguishers for your use in case of emergency. In addition, if you carry loads that may shift while driving, make sure you have approved load blocks, bins, or tie-downs to reduce the chance of a problem.

Crosswalks - Always stop and remained stop whenever any pedestrian is in a crosswalk. The intent of crosswalk laws is to ensure pedestrians' safety and comfort in the crosswalk.

Cell Phones While Driving - Avoid distractions while driving, including talking on the phone, with or without a hands-free device. Pull over for important conversations!

Safety has nothing to do with luck! - Pay attention and take the time prevent accidents by fixing or reporting potential problems!

